

### Edwards Secures \$95,000 to Continue Madisonville Hospital Renovation

(WASHINGTON) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that efforts to renovate and modernize St. Joseph's Hospital in Madisonville will be strengthened by \$95,000 he has included in the final 2009 Appropriations bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 245 to 178.

"Modernizing St. Joseph's Madisonville Hospital will mean improved health care for area families, and improved economic development for Madison County," said Edwards, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. "I am pleased that the Congress approved my request to continue the important renovations underway at the hospital, and I especially want to commend local leaders for recommending this high priority project to me."

Madison St. Joseph's Health Center is a 57-year old, non-profit facility which needs roof, emergency room, and technology renovations to address increasing patient loads including a dramatic increase in the number of emergency room visits. Madison St. Joseph's serves three rural counties including Madison, Leon, and Northern Grimes with a population of 52,000. The \$95,000 in federal funds adds to the \$117,000 Edwards secured in 2008 to begin the hospital renovations.

Gentry Woodard, Director of Legislative Affairs & Grants for St. Joseph's, said, "We are ecstatic that Congressman Edwards has again represented the needs of the community and recognized the importance of having an exceptional health care provider for the residents of Madison County. The funds will be used to purchase and install an overhead fire protection sprinkler system for the patient care wing that takes care of acute care patients. Overhead sprinklers are a safety requirement for hospital rooms where patients stay the night. Madison St. Joseph Health Center has not had the funds to accomplish this much needed project, and now with the help of Congressman Edwards we will!"

Edwards concluded, "Providing expanded quality health care for families in Madison and surrounding counties is an important goal that I will continue to strongly support."